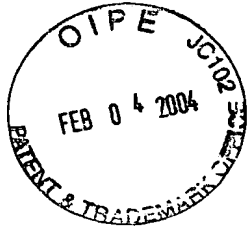


41  
App. No 09/319,142  
Amdt. Dated January 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003



1772  
**RECEIVED**  
**FEB 09 2004**  
**TC 1700**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 29, 2004

Mary Ann Copas, Secretary

In the Application of Ernst Michael Winter et al

Ser.No.: 09/319,142  
Filed: July 29, 1999  
For: GEMSTONE  
Art Unit: 1772  
Examiner: Alicia Ann Chevalier  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 12/29/2003**

Dear Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification and Abstract** are noted on page 2 of this paper. A substitute Abstract is provided on page 3 of this paper. Amendments to the specification are presented in the document attached to this amendment.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 8 of this paper and include replacement sheets of Figs. 1 - 4.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 9 of this paper.